THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) There are three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Tamil Nadu having a network of 208 branches as at the end of March, 1993 with headquarters located at Sattur, Dharmapuri and Cuddalore.

(b) The main objectives of the RRBs are :—

(i) to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas,

(ii) to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society,

(iii) to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas,

(iv) to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the central money market to the rural areas throuh refinance,

(v) to generate employment opportunities in rural areas, and

(vi) to bring down the cost of purveying credit in rural areas

As of March, 1993, as much as Rs. 8076 lacs were mobilised by RRBs in 5.76 lac accounts in Tamil Nadu. The credit support provided by these banks amounted to Rs. 8220 lacs (Outstanding) in 2.31 lac accounts. Thus over a period of time, the RRBs have achieved significant growth in taking banking services to the door steps of the rural poor, providing them with institutional credit support and mopping up of hitherto untapped rural savings.

(c) and (d) In the process of reaching to the weaker sections and fulfilling the broad socio-economic objectives, these RRBs have suffered financially. All the banks put together in Tamil Nadu have incurred a loss of Rs. 627.13 lacs during 1992-93 and their accumulated losses stood at Rs. 1452.24 lacs, as at the end of March, 1993. The reasons for incurring losses by RRBs are attributable to several factors like restriction on the choice of clientele, limited area of operation, low interest margins, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc.

(e) With a view to improving their viability in the short term a package of measures has been announced in December, 1993. These measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs whose disbursals during 1992-93 were less than Rs. 2 crores from service area obligations and permitting them to relocate loss making branches at places like Mandis, Taluk/District headquarters, agriculture produce centres, etc. and to open extension counters at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker. The RRBs have also been permitted to install safe deposit lockers.

Simplification of Procedure by Central Board of Direct Taxes

4431. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes is streamlining and simplifying various procedures to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence between the assessees and assessing authorities ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has been taking steps from time to time to streamline and simplify the procedures so as to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence between the assessees and the department. Some salient steps taken in this regard are as follows :—

(i) A simplified summary assessment scheme is in operation with effect from assessment year 1989—90 under which about 97 per cent of the returns are accepted with only prima facie adjustments, thereby dispensing with the need for the taxpayers to attend I.T. Offices.

(ii) A simplified Presumptive Tax Scheme for small businessmen is in operation with effect from asstt. year 1993-94.

(iii) A new procedure is being envisaged on experimental basis for elimination of the close-nexus between the taxpayers and the lower level functionaries of the department.

(iv) The norms for selection of cases for scrutiny is being reviewed to do away with the discretion available in this regard with the assessing officers.

(v) With a view to increase transparency it has been decided to communicate the decisions in the form of public circulars as far as possible rather than as departmental instructions.

(vi) Grievance Cells have been set up both Centrally and in field offices to redress grievances of the taxpayers expeditiously.

Currency Coins Minted in India

4432. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of currency coins minted in India during the last three years ; and

(b) what is the profit or loss incurred on this due to change in the value of the metal therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) The total value of coins minted in the India Government Mints during the last three years is as under :

Year	Value (In thousand Rs.)
1991-92	96,78,21
1992-93	1,06,13,34
1993-94	2,41,19,51

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

KERB Trading

4433. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimate of Kerb trading as a percentage of regular trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange ;

(b) whether Kerb trading is permissible according to the new guidelines of the SEBI ;

(c) what is the policy of SEBI with respect of Kerb trading ; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to control Kerb trading ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) While it is not possible to give any precise estimate of Kerb trading in securities because it is illegal, it is reported that such trading can be considered to constitute a very small percentage of the total turnover on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. SEBI is of the view that Kerb trading should be avoided in the interest of the securities market.

(d) Under the provisions of Section 23(1) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, any person who joins, gathers or assists in gathering at any place for doing business in securities other than the place of business specified in the bye-laws of a recognised stock exchange shall, on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine or with both. According to Section 25 of the said Act, any offence punishable under the provisions of Section 23(1) of the Act shall be deemed to be a cognisable offence within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Listed Companies with Face Value above Rs. 10 for Shares

4434. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of companies listed on the Stock Exchanges in India